

My Favorite Author: Dan Gutman

By Alexander T. Grade 4

I was really excited! My favorite author, Dan Gutman, was coming to Indian Lane for an assembly, and I was going to interview him! I did a lot of research on Dan Gutman online, and here are some things you might like to know about him.

In 1977, Dan Gutman graduated from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, with a degree in psychology. I didn't know what this was, so I looked it up in the dictionary, and it means the science of mind and behavior. He decided that he didn't like psychology and wanted to be a writer.

Mr. Gutman started a video games magazine in 1982. It was the first job he had. This is where he met the lady that he was going to marry, Nina. They got married in 1983.

In 1985, the video games magazine went out of business. That is when Dan Gutman decided to become a fulltime writer. He wrote about computers first, but that wasn't really what he wanted to be writing about.

Mr. Gutman tried to write about sports in 1987. He always liked this topic. He wrote an article about the spitball, the scuffball, and corked bats. Then he wrote his first baseball book, *It Ain't Cheatin' If You Don't Get Caught*. It was for adults, and it sold well.

In 1992, Dan Gutman decided to write for kids. He had a son, Sam, who was two years old then. He wrote baseball books and then other books about other sports. All of his books were non-fiction; but, in 1994, he wrote his first fiction book, *They Came from Centerfield*. It was a success, so he wrote more books for kids. In all, Dan Gutman has written 76 books!

He lives in Haddonfield, New Jersey, with his wife and his two kids, Sam and Emma. He is working on a new book called *Nightmare at the Book Fair*. I can't wait to read it!

Here are some things that I found out about Dan Gutman when I interviewed him:

- His favorite thing to do when he is not working is to ride his bike.
- His favorite book written by himself is *Johnny Hangtime*.
- His two favorite books written by other authors are *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen and *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen.
- His advice to young authors is: Don't imitate another author. Write like you are having a conversation with the reader. More tips are on his website.
- He likes to write in the morning from 9am to noon. First he writes in pen or pencil on file cards; then he moves to the computer.

For more information on Dan Gutman, go to his website: www.dangutman.com. It is a lot of fun. You can read the rejection letters he received from book publishers before he hit the "big time" and read about all the awards his books have won.

